

# Culpeper Wood Preservers

Culpeper County, Virginia  
Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

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**Type of Facility:** Wood Preserving Operation

**Contaminants:** Arsenic, Chromium, and Copper

**Funding:** Enforcement-financed

## Site Description and History

The Culpeper Wood Preservers (CWP) occupies approximately 20 acres of land. Several private homes are north and east of it. Approximately 8,750 people live within a three-mile radius of the site. CWP has been an active facility since 1976, pressure-treating wood with the preservative solution, chromated copper arsenate (CCA). Jefferson Home Builders, Incorporated, owned by Joseph Daniel, operates the facility.

The wood treatment at the facility is done by pressure-treating lumber in an enclosed processing unit. The wood is then moved to a drip pad and left to stabilize over a three-day period. Between 1976 and 1980, treated wood was stored outdoors for drying with no runoff protection.

In early 1981, approximately 100,000 gallons of CCA-contaminated wastewater escaped from an unlined impoundment contaminating neighboring surface waters, primarily Jonas Run. In February 1981, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a complaint/compliance order to CWP. As a result, CWP removed contaminated soil, reconstructed the impoundment adding downgradient leachate collection trenches, installed drip pads under the processing unit, and installed monitoring wells. The site was listed on the National Priorities List on October 4, 1989.

## Threats and Contaminants

The ground water is contaminated with arsenic and chromium from the wood treatment processes, according to analyses conducted in 1981 by the Virginia State Water Control Board (SWCB). In 1983, contaminated soil containing chromium, copper, and arsenic was discovered at the site, and some may still remain. In 1986, the SWCB determined homeowners' wells were not contaminated. Risks exist for individuals who drink contaminated ground water or surface water.

Wastewater containing CCA has contaminated neighboring surface waters. An unnamed tributary, 750 yards northeast of the site and approximately three miles upstream of Jonas

Run, potentially could be contaminated. Contaminated ground water or surface water may affect recreation and fishing.

### **Current Site Status**

EPA completed the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) work plan. Jefferson Home Builders, Incorporated, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), agreed to implement it and signed an Administrative Order on Consent in June 1993. A draft RI/FS was completed in February 1995. However, an impasse exists between EPA and the PRP over the findings in the RI.

In addition, there was a delay while EPA resolved the question of whether the storm water pond might be a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) unit. EPA has decided to advance the site through the Superfund process.

### **Community Relations and Concerns**

On December 30, 1992, members of the Culpeper Conservation Districts toured the site. The RI kick off meeting was held on October 6, 1993, and approximately 20 people attended.

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